

NEW YORK HERALD.

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Volume XXVIII.....No. 35

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

MIRLO GARDEN, Broadway.—LARI, THE FORKERS.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—BOSON FRIENDS.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—CHIMNEY CORNER—LA
FAGE DE BELLER—WILSON SKIFF.LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—REGULAR
FIVE—PART OF THE PATRIOT.NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—COLLIER BAYS—
SILVER DIVERS—CAPTAIN RANDY.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—GLENDALE—JACK AND
THE BEASTS—ROBINSON CRUSOE.BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—MRS.
JACOB WARREN—COMEDY OF THE AGE, at 10 hours—
Circus of Colours—Morning, Afternoon and Evening.BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 42 Broad-
way.—CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, DANCER, AC.—LALAGE
AND GAY.WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 24 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN
SOCIETY, DANCER, AC.—HAPPY FAMILY.BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD
ANIMALS—PERFORMING ELEPHANTS—COMIC MONKS, AC.AMERICAN MUSIC HALL No. 444 Broadway.—BAL-
LET, FANTASIES, BELLER, AC.PARISIAN CARNIVAL OF WONDERS, 533 Broadway.—
Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.RODOLPH'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN
SOCIETY, DANCER, BELLER, AC.

New York, Thursday, February 5, 1863.

THE SITUATION.

There is nothing new from the Army of the Po-
tomac. Everything is quiet in that direction.The attack by the rebels on Fort Donelson,
which we reported yesterday, resulted in their en-
tire defeat. At the commencement of the action
the enemy took four of our guns at a charge
vigorously and gallantly made, but our troops as
gallantly responded by taking them back again,
killing one hundred and thirty-five of the rebels
and wounding fifty. Among the latter is General
Forrest, the rebel leader.A heavy snow storm was raging at Fortress
Monroe yesterday, more severely than anything
which had occurred there for many years.We have some reliable intelligence of the
movements of the pirate vessel *Retribution*, from
the captain of the schooner *Springbok*, which has
arrived in Boston from Port Paix. Captain
Grindle states that the *Retribution* was off that
port about January 15, and sent a boat on shore,
pretending to be a merchant vessel. The statement
is confirmed by Captain Jordan, of the schooner H.
S. Boynton, who left Port Paix January 10, at that
time also she was understood to be in that
vicinity. If so, the report of the destruction of
four or five vessels off St. Thomas by that pri-
vateer is probably false, as St. Thomas is far to
windward, and the *Retribution* could not have
beaten up in season to make the report true.The Union cavalry in the vicinity of Murfrees-
boro have been active. On the 2d inst. a body of
Stokes' Tennessee cavalry and a Kentucky regi-
ment of infantry made a splendid dash on a rebel
camp at Middletown, fifteen miles from Murfrees-
boro, and captured one hundred of the enemy,
with all their camp equipage, horses and wagons.Another fine attack was made at Franklin by a
body of Davis' cavalry, who captured twenty of
the rebels.Brigadier General Robert B. Mitchell, command-
ing, at Nashville, has issued an order announcing
that, "in accordance with directions from Head-
quarters, Department of the Cumberland, no per-
son will be allowed to go south from that point
except by way of Vicksburg."In the important news which we published ex-
clusively yesterday morning from the South was
a despatch received from a Richmond paper, and
dated at Chattanooga, Tenn., January 26, stating
that General Wheeler's rebel cavalry had attacked
a fleet of twenty-five federal transports on the
Cumberland river, and destroyed five, on Fri-
day, the 23d ult. This is now known to be false,
because we have news direct from Nashville, which
states that the fleet which arrived there consisted
of twenty-three steamers. They were
attacked, as the rebel account states, on Fri-
day; but, beyond a shot which passed through the
R. B. Hamilton, and a few bullet holes in the Com-
merce, no damage was done, and the entire fleet
arrived safely at Nashville.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the credentials of Mr.
Doubtful, re-elected Senator from Wisconsin for
six years from the 4th of March next, were pre-
sented. The bill changing the time of holding the
Disaster Courts was reported back by the Judi-
ciary Committee. The bill to prevent correspondence
with rebels was also reported back. A joint resolu-
tion to revive the act securing to officers and
men employed in the Department of the West
and Missouri their pay, bounty and pensions, was
reported back by the Military Committee. A bill
authorizing the President to make qualified pen-
sions, so as to result in relief from imprisonment,
Ac., was passed. The bill amendatory of the
act to prevent government officers and members of
Congress from taking consideration for procuring
contracts, office or place, was reported back by
the Judiciary Committee. A bill for the sale of
certain Indian reservations in California, and the
establishment of new reservations in the same
State, was referred to the Military Committee.
The resolutions relative to French intervention
in Mexico were laid on the table by a vote of
thirty-four against nine. The resolution directing
the Secretary of the Navy not to accept the title
of League Island until further order ofCongress, was referred to the Naval Committee.
The bill for the encouragement of re-enlistments
and the enrolling and drafting of the militia was
taken up, and several amendments adopted. A
motion to strike out the second section, giving the
President power to make all rules and regulations for
enrolling and drafting the militia, was dis-
agreed to. Pending a motion to strike out the
fourth section, the Senate adjourned.In the House of Representatives the Committee
on Elections reported adversely on the claims of
J. B. McLeod, and his contestant, W. W. Wing, to
represent the Second district of Virginia. The
bill providing for a submarine telegraph from
Portress Monroe to Galveston, communicating
with intermediate points on the coast, was passed.
The bill providing for the codification of the laws
of the United States was rejected. The bill re-
lative to the enlargement of the canal so as to ad-
mit of the passage of gunboats, was discussed at
some length, and then laid aside till Friday. Bills
appropriating \$30,000 for the protection of over-
land emigrants; for the organization of an aban-
doned crops of twenty thousand men; and author-
izing the employment of additional clerks, copy-
ists and laborers in the Quartermaster General's
office, were passed. The Senate bill for the more
efficient administration of the Subsistence Depart-
ment was also passed. The Senate bill authorizing
twenty thousand men to be raised for the defence
of Kentucky was likewise passed, and the House
adjourned.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday, the resolution
endorsing the President's emancipation proclama-
tion was called up, when a substitute for it was
proposed, and, after some discussion, the whole
subject was laid over till to-day. Favorable re-
ports were made from the committees on the bills
to prevent desertions in the volunteer regiments
of the army and in the naval service; authorizing
the Governor to furnish tourniquets to the soldiers
from this State, and amending the charter of the
New York Warehousing Company. The bill
amending the laws of 1858 relative to the regula-
tion of the wharves and alps of this city was
passed. The Susquehanna Railroad bill was again
under consideration in Committee of the Whole.In the Assembly the standing committees were
announced by the Speaker. Several gentlemen
who had received appointments on the committees
asked to be relieved from serving. Some of them
were excused and others were not. The remarks
of members in this connection occupied a con-
siderable portion of the day's session. Bills were
introduced to amend the Marine Court act, to
punish frauds on employees, and to legalize the
acts of our city government by which the relief
fund of \$500,000 for soldiers' families was raised.
Concurrent resolutions for an amendment of the
constitution in reference to the organization of the
courts were introduced. A resolution was also in-
troduced instructing the Judiciary Committee to
inquire into the expediency of investigating boards
of supervisors with increased powers.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

There are two European steamships fully out
at this port this morning. They sailed in the fol-
lowing order, viz:—From. Day of sailing. Destination.
Hansa,..... Southampton, Jan. 21. New York.
City of Manchester,..... Jan. 22. New York.
The news by the *Hansa* is that and that by the
City of Manchester four days later than the ad-
vices of the Australasian.We publish this morning some interesting news
from the city of Mexico. Our dates of the *Herald*
reach to the 4th of January, being one week later
than any previous news direct from the Mexi-
can capital. The Mexicans complain of their sym-
pathizing American neighbors for sending supplies
of mules to the French, and under the circum-
stances, have begun to capture them as fast as
they can. The French are gradually advancing to
the attack of Puebla; but the Mexicans are ready
for their invaders. General Carranza was continu-
ally on the watch to guard against surprise. It is
said that the enthusiasm of the Mexican soldiery
to meet their enemy amounts to a kind of frenzy.Another fleet of twenty-three steamers, all load-
ed, and two gunboats, arrived safely at Nash-
ville, on the 28th ult., and the next day they
commenced discharging, to the great delight of
the inhabitants. Provisions had become quite
scarce in the city, and enormous prices were de-
manded previous to this arrival.Mr. George Worth, mate of the United States
gunboat *Golden Rule*, was instantly killed in Bal-
timore on the 1st inst. by being run over by the
wheels of a railroad car.The fortnightly meeting of the Board of Educa-
tion took place last evening. Mr. Thomas Boese,
the Clerk of the Board, had his salary raised to
\$3,500 per annum. There was no other business
of the slightest moment transacted until the Board
adjourned.At the Stock Exchange yesterday there was at first
a heavy feeling, which was due in part to the tightness
in the money market. In the afternoon this feeling dis-
appeared, and the market again became buoyant. Gold
fluctuated actively between 156 and 158, closing at about
157½. Exchange closed at 173½ and 174. Money was quite
active at seven per cent.Cotton was inactive, and down to 80½c. a 87c. for mid-
dling yesterday. Flour, wheat and corn advanced early
in the day, but closed at lower rates, with less activity.The demand was brisk for pork, which was rather firm,
but was restricted for other kinds of provisions, as well
as for groceries and whiskey, the latter article closing
in good demand, as likewise were dry goods, foreign hemp
wool, hay, hops and fruit. Whalebone was more sought
after. Freight was somewhat bricker and firmer.OUR ICE CROP.—The thermometer has gone
down to zero, and the hopes of our ice con-
sumers have risen as a consequence. Those per-
sons who had secured during the last cold snap
a certain amount of ice in their cellars began to
look upon their supplies of the luxury as so much
gold, at sixty per cent premium; and, as the
warm weather lasted, their anticipations of a
rich percentage for their treasure grew apace.
The cold has come again, however, and the
hopes of the few above referred to are sinking,
with the thermometer, below zero, while the
many are jubilant over the present prospects of
a grand ice crop. Ice has become a necessity
with our people, and no doubt we should emulate
the example of the Texas judge were the
crop to fail. The judge, finding that the supply of
ice in the town he inhabited was exhausted, ad-
judged court until more ice could be obtained.
We have in this great country every species
of crops known elsewhere, and some peculiarly
our own. We at one time had but our cereal,
tobacco and cotton crops. Now we have the
equally important ice, coal and granite, as well
as gold, crops.THE BANKRUPT BILL, DEFYED.—We are sorry
to record the fact that on Tuesday last, in the
House of Representatives, the Bankrupt Bill,
by a vote of 90 to 53, was laid upon the table,
and that a motion to reconsider was also
tabled—thus finally disposing of the measure.
We had entertained the hope that some such
needed act for the relief of our embur-
rassed and suffering business classes would be
passed at this session of Congress; but it seems
that we are to have nothing but enormous ap-
propriations, enormous taxations, unlimited
issues of paper money, and never ending, but
still beginning, acts of Congress for the emulpa-
tion and military organization of the Almighty
nigger. "White folks" must wait a little longer,
and so let us wait in patience and in the
hope of better things to come.

The Assumed Raising of the Blockade at Charleston.

The news which we published yesterday of
the successful raid of the rebel iron-clads
against our blockading force at Charleston is,
so far as the number and value of the federal
vessels destroyed are concerned, of but very
little moment. The moral effect of the reverse,
however, is very great. It is a humiliation to
our navy that will be made the most of by those
hostile to us, and that could never have oc-
curred if ordinary foresight and vigilance had
been observed.But it is not merely in relation to this point
that we regard this affair as a very serious dis-
aster. It is the principle of international law
involved in it that imparts to its gravity. We
do not believe that it is in reality affects the legal
and permanent character of the blockade; but
there is no doubt that it is intended to raise
that issue with us. The simultaneous and tem-
porarily successful efforts made at Galveston
and Charleston to break the blockade, the pro-
clamations issued by the rebel commanders at
both places, formally declaring the consumma-
tion of the fact, and the endorsement by the
foreign consuls of their proceedings, all go to
show a preconcerted plan, undertaken either
with or without an understanding with the
European governments, but, in either case,
pregnant with trouble to us. If any doubt
existed on this point it would be re-
moved by the declarations of the rebel
journals. The *Richmond Dispatch* states that
formal notice of the raising of the block-
ade at Charleston had been given by the
rebel Secretary of State to the British and
French consuls in Richmond, and that, by the
strict rule of international law, sixty days' notice
must be given before it can be re-established.
If this were so it would materially alter the
character and probable duration of the war.
Two months' unobstructed commercial inter-
course with Europe would place the South,
both in regard to finances and war supplies, in
a position infinitely stronger than that which it
occupies at present. It would infuse fresh life
and vigor into its military and naval operations,
and render it, with its united sentiment, impos-
sible to conquer.We have no apprehension that the rebels will
be able to establish legal grounds for what they
claim. We have looked carefully through all
the international authorities—extracts from
which will be found in another column—and
we can find nothing which, taken in conjunc-
tion with the real facts of the case, would go to
show a legal raising of the blockade. Neither
Ortolan nor Hautefeuille—the two standard
writers on international law—contain anything
which would go to prove that its temporary
disturbance, without freedom of access and
exit shown, would constitute such an interrup-
tion of it as would require the two months'
notice claimed by the rebels as necessary to its
re-establishment. On the contrary, it will be
found, by a passage which we quote from the
latter writer, that express limits are set to the
immunities of neutral vessels profiting by such
disturbance, thereby showing that the resump-
tion of the blockade is, within a reasonable time,
at the option of the besieging fleet. It is true that
the letter of Lord John Russell confirming the
efficiency of the blockade, when, in February,
1861, the question was officially brought before
him, may be made the foundation of a quibble
in this regard. He says that, "assuming that the
blockade is duly notified, and also that a num-
ber of ships are stationed and remain at the en-
trance of a port sufficient really to prevent
access to it, or create an evident danger in
leaving it, and that these ships do not volun-
tarily prevent egress or ingress, the fact that
various ships may have successfully escaped
through it will not of itself prevent the blockade
from being an effective one by international
law." It will be sought to show that no por-
tion of our blockading force at Charleston
"remained" at the entrance to that port after
the affair in question, and that there was con-
sequently no danger to neutral vessels in either
entering or leaving it. In this view we can
understand the stress laid by the rebels on the
alleged fact that at a distance of five miles
beyond the usual anchorage of the blockaders
nothing was to be seen of them. For this state-
ment, however, we have nothing but their own
authority. If a neutral vessel had attempted
either to enter or leave the port it is a question
whether the blockading ships would not have
quickly manifested their presence.Apart from the discredit attaching to this
unfortunate affair, the question involved in
it is, as we have before observed, a very
important one. All international authorities
concede that the temporary withdrawal of
a blockading force does not *per se* constitute
the raising of a blockade. It is very essential
that we should learn whether its being driven
"temporarily" to some distance beyond its
usual moorings is to be regarded in a different
light. This, however, cannot be ascertained
until we hear from the European governments
interested in the decision of the point.The worst that can befall us, supposing that
decision to be adverse, will be, according to
rebel statements, a raising of the blockade at
Charleston for sixty days. In the meanwhile
we can settle the question for ourselves by as-
saulting that hotbed of rebellion with such a
force as will insure its speedy capture.THE LONGEST ROOM IN THE WORLD.—The
people of New England are giving General
McClellan a reception which is as sincere as it
is enthusiastic. This proves the spread of his
popularity. And while speaking of his popu-
larity we are reminded, as Mr. Lincoln says, of
what occurred a few evenings since at one of
our popular minstrel halls. The incident shows
that here, as in Boston, the enthusiasm of the
people is easily raised when McClellan is in
question. Bones wished to know if
"Mr. Johnson" could tell him which was the
largest room in the world. Johnson failed in
all his attempts and finally gave it up. "The
room for improvement," triumphantly shouted
Bones. "Oh! I know where that room is," said
Mr. Johnson. "Dat's down on de Rappahan-
nock." Shouts of applause greeted this reply.
"I know who can sweep dat room clean," as-
serted Bones, with a wise shake of the head.
"Little Mac can do it, sure." This brought
the house down. They stamped, and laughed,
and cheered for McClellan for ten minutes at
least. The uproar began afresh when Bones
came forward and gravely announced that
"Fifteen minutes intermission will take place to
allow for cheering de General." Straws show
which way the wind blows. The McClellan
breeze is becoming a hurricane, bound to
sweep away from our midst the curse of
abolitionism, and to rid our country of its
enemies.

Mrs. Lincoln and the Radicals of Both Parties.

Whatever may be the personal habits, the
social antecedents or the political opinions of
the President of the United States, his high
position entitles him to the respect of every
good citizen and honorable man. Especially is
this remark true in regard to the domestic re-
lations of the head of the nation. The President
is *ex officio* the representative of the govern-
ment, and those who insult him or his family,
whether in the chit chat and gossip of society,
from the rostrum of the public orator, or
through the columns of the newspapers, not
only violate the rules of etiquette, but are
guilty of attempting to bring the nation into
contempt. We regret to state that these offences
are proven against the radical leaders, and
especially the radical organs, of both the re-
publican and democratic parties.It was about a year ago that the radical re-
publican press began a scandalous onslaught
upon Mrs. Lincoln, the wife of the President.
The motive of these attacks was the report that
Mrs. Lincoln did not agree in opinion with the
abolition radicals upon the slavery question.
This discussion about the political opinions of
a lady who pretends to no political influence,
and whose tastes lie in an altogether differ-
ent direction, was conducted with most un-
warrantable license. The New England pa-
pers, though assuming to represent moral,
pure and scrupulously fastidious communities,
disgraced themselves by publishing the most
infamous slanders. New England speakers
banded Mrs. Lincoln's name about in the most
ungentlemanly manner, and did not scruple to
assail her as a sympathizer with the rebels, be-
cause they could not then induce the President
to yield to their fanatical demands. The New
York Tribune was foremost in this dirty work.This discussion about the political opinions of
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The Tribune's vulgarities upon Mrs. Lincoln's
ball and ball dress, and the annoying para-
graphs in regard to her French and the studies
she was making, "that she may better discharge
the duties of her elevated station." Nor can
the proceedings of the kitchen committee of
Paul Pry Hickman yet be forgotten or forgiven.
In short, the cowardly and brutal radical re-
publicans, afraid to attack the President openly,
continued for a long while to abuse and insult
his wife, who, so far from giving them the
slightest excuse for their assaults, was distin-
guished then as now for her benevolence, her
amiability, the absence of that vulgar display
which too many women would affect in her
position, and for those graces of person and
deportment which befit the wife of the Chief
Magistrate of a great country.At that time several of the democratic jour-
nals were the first to resent and protest against
this unpardonable attempt to drag a
lady into the mire of political contro-
versy. Now, however, the tide has turned,
and, with apparently no other provoca-
tion than a desire to wound the President
through his domestic affections, the radical
democratic organs are vilifying Mrs. Lincoln
as scandalously as did the abolition papers a
few months ago. One of these democratic
organs recently announced that Mrs. Lincoln
was in favor of emancipating the slaves of
the South, and concluded its remarks by the
boorish suggestion that the President might
hail his wife "as the first slave emancipated by
his proclamation." The *Journal of Commerce*,
whose editors make great pretensions to piety
and patriotism; the *Express*, which is conducted
by men who profess to be perfect chevaliers
sans reproche in their intercourse with ladies,
and the *World*, which is managed by a few
young men who have probably associated only
with each other, and have thus acquired very bad
manners and worse sense, have each copied and
given circulation to a bit of Washington gossip,
which no decent paper ought to print with-
out accompanying it with the proper condem-
nation, and which is to the effect that "Mrs.
Lincoln looks rather pretty, owing in a great
measure, doubtless, to the elaborate coat of
paint which tinged her features with unnatural
beauty." Washington gossip is a term usually
synonymous with falsehood, and never was the
falsehood more absurd and palpable than in the
present instance. It may be useless, per-
haps, to remind the radical democratic editors
that such publications, if uncontradicted, have
a tendency to alienate from the President
and his family that popular affection and
respect almost indispensable to the welfare
of the country during such a crisis as this.That alienation it seems to be the object of
these editors to accomplish. Neither, possibly,
will they be at all moved by the consideration
that their articles may excite a contempt for the
nation and its rulers in foreign countries which
may operate most disadvantageously to our
cause. But certainly these editors should re-
flect that, while they may injure Mrs. Lincoln
in the estimation of the ignorant and the envious,
they equally injure themselves by the publication
of what is false in fact, objectionable in its sub-
ject, and contrary to all the recognized usages
of polite and refined society. To those who
know Mrs. Lincoln her character speaks for
itself, and her merits are as great as they are
unobtrusive. The sick and wounded soldiers
in the hospitals about Washington bless her
kindness, her benignity and her generosity.
All who are brought into social intercourse
with her admire her womanly virtues, her good-
ness of heart and her rare modesty, which
adorns, while it cannot entirely conceal, the
quiet dignity so becoming to one in her posi-
tion. We advise these editors, therefore, to
apologize for their past offences against prop-
erty, and to desist from all such insulting and
ill-bred personalities in the future. A persist-
ence in their present reprehensible conduct will
entirely destroy whatever reputation they may
have as gentlemen, and will not by any means
increase their efficiency as partisans or their in-
fluence as patriots.THE WORLD ON ARBITRARY ARRESTS.—Mr.
Stanton, by liberating editor Bollenau so speed-
ily, has done one grievous wrong. He has
dashed to the earth the hopes of our contem-
porary, the *World*. The arrest of Mr. Bollenau
had thrown the *World* into a flutter of excitement
and hope. Here was a chance to obtain that
for which the journal in question has labored so
diligently—a stoppage of publication—which,
in these days of high prices for paper, would be
the salvation of the *World*. It has frothed
and fumed against the administration, in hopes
of just such a result as that which overtook
Bollenau; and yet Mr. Stanton has not stopped
the *World*. Cruel, cruel Mr. Stanton! Do you
not understand that you must stop the *World*,
or it will have to stop itself? Remember, Mr.
Stanton, that arrests depraved bring some news-
papers to grief. And pray pay a little atten-
tion to the wallings and railings of our neigh-
bor, the *World*.

The Mississippi Department—Progress of the Work at Vicksburg, &c.

We have news to the 30th ultimo from Vicks-
burg. At that day General Grant, chief in
command, had arrived. The work of winning
and deepening the famous "cut-off" was pro-
gressing; but the rebels, baulking their danger,
had planted a battery on the opposite, or Mis-
sissippi, side of the river, which commands the
outlet of the canal into the main stream. That
battery, however, will be silenced when the
time comes for action.A rebel despatch from Vicksburg of the 30th
ult. says that some federal scouting parties had
appeared that morning on the river bank imme-
diately in front of the town, but on the Louisi-
ana side of the river, and had burned four
houses under the range of the rebel batteries,
the river being less than a mile in width, and
the rebel batteries being on the Vicksburg
bluffs, where they possess the advantages of a
plunging fire. This would seem to indicate a
design on the part of General Grant to plant a
line of batteries in front of Vicksburg, to keep
the rebels well employed in his front while our
gunboat squadron are running below the
town, by way of the "cut-off." But, whatever
may be the designs of General Grant, we have
the fullest confidence in his success, not only in
removing the Mississippi river, but in removing
the rebels from Vicksburg, in "moving upon
their works."Some five hundred miles up the river from
General Grant's scene of operations, and at the
historic Island No. 10, a strong force of rebel
guerillas, with three pieces of artillery, had en-
deavored to arrest the passage of the gunboat
New Era, but after a fight of several hours
were shelved off. From Fort Donelson, on the
Cumberland, February 3, we have the report
that a fight was still in progress there at four
o'clock in the afternoon, although it had com-
menced at an early hour in the morning. From
this it is evident that the fort had been assailed
by a formidable rebel detachment; but as re-
inforcements had gone forward to the support
of the garrison we conclude that the enemy
has been expelled.At the same time, from rebel reports, it ap-
pears that their irrepressible guerilla, Wheeler,
has been very active of late in cutting in among
and cutting up the river transports and railroad
trains of General Rosecrans. All these things
disclose a desperate determination on the part
of the rebels to maintain a foothold in Ten-
nessee, and to hold the points which they pos-
sess on the Mississippi river. In Tennessee and
at Vicksburg there is doubtless hot work very
near at hand. It is possible that within the
next ten days the most important events of the
war will come off in that quarter, and the most
decisive against the rebellion.From Fort Hudson—the only remaining rebel
obstruction after Vicksburg on the whole line
of the Mississippi—we have no very late intelli-
gence. We are informed, however, that a "cut-
off" is feasible at that point, and that the
project is under consideration. This may ex-
plain the requisition of General Banks for a
large supply of trenching tools. But let
Vicksburg be taken, and the combined forces
of Grant and Admiral Porter from above, and
of Banks and Admiral Farragut from below,
will make short work of Port Hudson. The
Mississippi and its tributaries are in excellent
condition for aggressive operations on our side
from Tennessee to the Gulf, and we are con-
fident that, before those waters subside, the ad-
vantages which they now offer will have been
fully employed in crushing the rebellion in the
Southwest.Our greatest victories last year were achieved
between the 1st of February and the 1st of
June; and this year, from the same advantages
of navigable rivers, we anticipate, within the
same period, the same results, but on a much
greater scale. The administration has the men
and the means; its most favorable season for
great successes has come; and surely, notwith-
standing all the blunders of the past, we may
expect henceforward some glorious compensa-
tory victories. If not, we make look for the
peace-makers and Union breakers by the 1st
of May.COMPTROLLER BRENNAN AT WORK.—We pub-
lished on Tuesday morning a communication
from Comptroller Brennan to the Common Coun-
cil stating that he must decline to carry into effect
the ordinance authorizing the issue of municipal
shipplasters, and that he must also decline to
execute the resolution of the Common Council
for the purchase of the Gansevoort property.
This is honest, straightforward talk on the part
of the Comptroller, and will receive the cordial
approbation of every respectable citizen.
Corporation shipplasters are unnecessary, if
not illegal, and would be a great nuisance.
The title to the Gansevoort property is, as the
Comptroller says, quite doubtful. We are glad,
therefore, that he has decided to have nothing
to do with either of these measures. They are
part of the rubbish left over by the old Council
Board, and the rubbish heap is the place for
them. The Comptroller speaks out like a Jack-
sonian democrat for hard money and clear
titles; and although his communication is ably
argued, we most admire the justice of its con-
clusions and the firmness with which these con-
clusions are maintained.By and by our depreciated paper currency
will go down with a crash, and stocks and
bonds will go down with it. Everybody will
then be eager to do business upon the Comptrol-
ler's principle of hard money and real
estate with valid titles. But a man of Bren-
nan's firmness, decision and sturdy honesty will
be needed to set the example of repudiating all
paper money, just as he has already repudiated
the shipplaster scheme, and to demand gold
and silver in all business transactions. This
will be necessary if we ever expect to get rid
of these paper nuisances, which are now worse
than the plagues of Egypt and which will be
unendurable before many months. We trust
that when the proper time comes Comptroller
Brennan will follow up his good work by this
restoring bullion to general circulation.THE NEW NEGRO ARMY.—Since it seems to
be now resolved that we are to have a negro
army to put the finishing touches on the rebel-
lion, it is to be hoped that no time will be lost
in commencing a draft for that purpose. The one
hundred and fifty thousand suggested by Me-
nophotes Stevens should, at least, be en-
rolled in the twinkling of an eye. This terri-
ble army should be clothed not in red breeches
alone, as already proposed, but in red coats
also, so that they may look extremely ferocious,
and as nearly like the British negro Zouaves as
possible. We can fancy such a negro army
marching to the rescue of the country, and the
excitement they would produce. Let us have
the black army, then, which red coats as well
as red breeches.

RADICALISM OF ABOLITION ORATORS.—While

the Southern rebels, by unity of purpose and
rapidly of movement, are endeavoring to gain
substantial advantages for their cause, the radi-
cal disorganizers and abolitionists of the North
are working as conscientiously in an opposite direc-
tion for the utter ruin and devastation of the
country. The only objects they keep before
themselves and the public are the negro and
destiny, while the whole fabric of free repre-
sentative government is being shattered before
their eyes. One of the great apostles of this
destructive class—Mr. Wendell Phillips—has
again been agitating the public mind on his
favorite though threadbare subject. On Tues-
day evening last he addressed a large assem-
blage at Beecher's Brooklyn conventicle, on
what he was pleased to style "The Future of
America." But, as was naturally to be ex-
pected, he said very little about our future, but
a great deal about abolition. In fact, he con-
fessed that there is no man who can prognosti-
cate the events that lie in the lap of futurity; but,
being in the presence of a large audience he could
not avoid improving the occasion to descant on
the imaginary future of a people whose present
condition is the happiest that could be wished
for them.It is high time that these radical orators and
disorganizers should be made to hold their
peace. The harangues of abolition preachers
and lecturers have already brought enough
on the country, and caused the blood of their
sons of its best sons to be shed like water.
The loyal and patriotic part of the country
will no longer submit to these outrageous pro-
ceedings, but will demand that the abolitionists
of the North be treated with the same severity
as the secessionists of the South. In fact, if
there be either of the two parties deserving
of the leniency of the government it is the
latter, and not the former; for, while